

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 11 have been amended and new claim 23 has been added. Claims 1-23 are pending and under consideration.

Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites an insertion portion included at both of the end portions of the filtering portion and having a shape corresponding to a shape of the respective support groove, thereby forming a seal. Present FIG. 6, which is a magnified view of FIG. 5, illustrates these features. Similarly, the magnified view of present FIG. 3 (PRIOR ART) illustrates the gap between the filter 52 and the support grooves 54a and 56a. This gap is not apparent from the unmagnified view of FIG. 2 (PRIOR ART).

In contrast, Bonn does not disclose any magnified view of the re-circulating filter 110 and the shape thereof relative to the fingers 112. Instead, FIG. 3 of the reference is too distant to clearly illustrate the details of the shape of the re-circulating filter 110. Thus, just as present FIG. 2 does not illustrate the gaps in the admitted prior art, Bonn could have similar gaps. The text of Bonn discloses that the fingers taper inward as they approach the upper casing to tightly hold the filter 110. Bonn, col. 3, ln. 52-53. Thus, this is a vertical tapering. At points which are further from the upper casing 7, the amount of tapering is less, resulting in a wide region of the fingers 112 which would not form a seal with the filter 110.

It was previously argued, in summary, that the schematic illustration of Bonn does not illustrate the specific features of the claimed filter. In response, the Examiner states that "the drawings clearly show the structure of the filter." While the drawings of Bonn do illustrate a filter, the drawings do not illustrate all of the claimed features, as described above. The detail of the drawings in Bonn is insufficient to teach or suggest claimed features, such as the seal and other specific features discussed below. Thus, the drawings of Bonn must do more than "clearly show the structure of the filter", but must instead teach all of the claimed features. However, as discussed above, the detail of Bonn is insufficient to illustrate all of the claimed features.

Independent claim 1 further recites that the insertion portion is inserted into the support grooves forming a seal. In contrast, Bonn discloses that fingers 112 taper inward "to tightly hold a filter inserted therein." Bonn, column 3, lines 52-53. However, it is respectfully submitted that tightly holding is not necessarily equivalent to forming a seal. The fingers 112 may tightly hold filter 110, however, the shape of the interface therebetween may not be sufficient to form a seal. Thus, the problems of the admitted prior art, such as air flowing to the filter escaping through a gap between the filter and a support, may still occur.

Furthermore, dependent claim 2 recites that the insertion portion is formed by extending a material forming the filtering portion a predetermined length from both end portions of the filtering portion to have a thickness narrower than that of the filtering portion. However, as discussed above, details of the filter 110 of Bonn are not specifically illustrated, or discussed.

New claim 22 is added and recites that the insertion portion and the support grooves have an untapered shape. It is respectfully submitted that Bonn does not teach or suggest these features.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this response, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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